

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
2003P18809US

**REMARKS**

The objected to the length of the abstract. The abstract as amended has 133 words.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3-6 and 10 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Regarding the differences between claims 3 and 5, applicants note that different memories are involved. The amendment to claim 5 clarifies the differences between claims 3 and 5.

Regarding claims 4 and 6, a system is being claimed, not a transducer. The preamble of claim 1 recites "a system for identifying unauthorized use of a transducer which is detachably connectable with a particular imaging device." This provides sufficient antecedent basis for positively claiming structure for the imaging system in claims 4 and 6.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brock-Fisher (US 6,500,126). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections of claims 1, 3-6 and 10, including independent claim 1.

Claim 1 recites a system for identifying unauthorized use of a transducer which is detachably connectable with a particular imaging device. An electronic identifier is associated with the transducer wherein the electronic identifier comprises an identifier distinguishing the transducer from other transducers of a same type and manufacturer. A processor is operable to generate a security signal in response to the electronic identifier, wherein the security signal corresponds to authorization of the identifier distinguishing the transducer from other transducers, the authorization being for any and all uses with the particular imaging device and the authorization being a function of the identifier distinguishing the transducer from other transducers of the same type and manufacturer.

Brock-Fisher does not disclose these limitations. Brock-Fisher desires to adapt one type of transducer by a first manufacturer to allow use with an imaging system from another manufacturer (abstract; and col. 2, lines 30-35). An identifier of the transducer indicates the type of transducer (col. 1, lines 53-55; and col. 4, lines 30-37). An adaptor translates the transducer identifier into one recognized by the imaging system from the different

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2003P18809US

manufacturer (col. 5, lines 30-35; and col. 6, lines 29-32). Brock-Fisher attempts to make transducers from one manufacture available for use with an imaging system from another manufacturer by, in part, translating the type of transducer identifier. Brock-Fisher does not authorize as a function of the identifier distinguishing the transducer from other transducers of the same type and manufacturer.

The Examiner alleges that any incompatibility would be output to the user. Regardless, the incompatibility would not be as a function of the identifier distinguishing the transducer from other transducers of the same type and manufacturer.

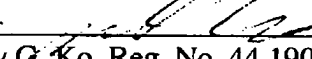
Dependent claims 3-6 and 10 depend from claim 1, so are allowable for the same reasons. Further limitations distinguish form the cited references. For example, claim 10 recites that the adapter has a memory operable to store security information. The memory 58 of the adaptor of Brock-Fisher stores connection and operation information (col. 6, lines 4-15), not the identifier or security information.

**CONCLUSION:**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seeks early allowance thereof. If for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the application but believes that an interview would be helpful to resolve any issues, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at (650) 694-5810 or Craig Summerfield at (312) 321-4726.

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